

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01
SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00
A-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 /135 W
-----050508 251844Z /64

R 251703Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8392
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: MORE ON TERRORISTS
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SUMMARY: PRESS APRIL 25 GIVES FURTHER DETAILS ON TERRORIST GROUP. PRESS NAMES FOUR PERSONS INVOLVED IN GROUP'S ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT AND OUTSIDE IT. THOSE INVOLVED LINKED TO DISSIDENT PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS
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WITH CONNECTIONS TO "TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE RED BRIGADES." PRESS ACCOUNT LINKS GROUP TO GROUPS ABROAD "KNOWN FOR LEFTIST LEANINGS AND OPPOSITION TO PEACE INITIATIVE." END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS APRIL 25 HAS FURTHER DETAILS ON TERRORIST ORGANIZATION SUPPOSEDLY CONNECTED TO ABU NIDAL

GROUP. INVESTIGATIONS BY HIGHER STATE SECURITY PROSECUTOR REPORTED THAT MASTERMIND OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATION IS GEORGE BELINNI, "A PALESTINIAN" MEMBER OF "ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN ZURICH." LEADER OF THE ORGANIZATION IN EGYPT IS MOHAMED AREF MOUSSA, WHO SUPPOSEDLY HEADS DISSIDENT WING OF FATAH IN EGYPT CALLED "SOUND LINE OF FATAH." THE LINK BETWEEN BELINNI IN ZURICH AND AREF IN EGYPT SUPPOSEDLY IS SWISS JOURNALIST MANTOVANI AND A GERMAN WOMAN, AKFERA MARTIA GUNTER, WHO VARIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS STUDENT AND AS JOURNALIST.

2. NEWS ACCOUNTS SAY MANTOVANI AND GUNTER CAME TO CAIRO (PRESUMABLY AT INSTIGATION OF BELINNI) AND PHOTOGRAPHED MENA HOUSE HOTEL AND ENVIRONS. THEY THEN LEFT EGYPT AND CONTACTED SOME INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVING "CONNECTIONS TO EXTREMIST PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS." THE TWO RETURNED LATER TO EGYPT AND CONTACTED MOUSSA TO WORK OUT TERRORIST PLAN FOR ORGANIZATION "TO STAND READY FOR GO-AHEAD SIGNAL FROM PALESTINIAN WADI HADDAD "GROUP" HEADQUARTERED IN EUROPE. BELINNI HIMSELF VISITED CAIRO THIS YEAR TO ACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH CONTACTS BETWEEN "ARABS AND FOREIGNERS."

3. PRESS CLAIMS THAT THOSE INVOLVED ADVOCATED EXTREMIST
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PRINCIPLES AND THAT "THIS MATERIALIZED AFTER THE PEACE INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED." PRESS LINKED ORGANIZATION IN EGYPT TO DISSIDENT PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS WHICH IN TURN HAVE "CONNECTIONS WITH SOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE RED BRIGADE AND THE ORGANIZATION IN ZURICH" TO WHICH BELINNI BELONGS.

4. PRESS ACCOUNTS VARY AS TO NUMBERS OF PEOPLE CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST. GUMHURIYYA SAYS THAT NUMBER IS SEVEN, AKHBAR ADDS THAT PROSECUTOR ORDERED THE ARREST OF "THREE OTHER PALESTINIANS", AND AHARAM ROUNDS IT OUT BY SAYING TEN HAVE BEEN ORDERED ARRESTED. IN AHARAM ACCOUNT, THESE INCLUDE MANTOVANI, "A GERMAN GIRL STUDENT" (GUNTER), A "JORDANIAN YOUTH" AND SEVEN PALESTINIANS FROM "SOUND LINE OF FATAH" ORGANIZATION. PRESS DOES NOT PUBLISH IDENTIFICATION OF "STATES" FINANCING TERRORIST GROUP BUT LINKS GROUP WITH EXTREMIST GROUPS ABROAD "KNOWN FOR THEIR LEFTIST LEANINGS AND THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE PEACE INITIATIVE." EILTS

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